



## **U.S. Department of Justice**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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#### **IDENTITY THEFT ARRESTS**

Terrell L. Harris, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced today that on Monday, April 29, 2002, Margie Lewis Wise, Johnnie Lewis, and Theresa Adams were arrested after evading law enforcement officials since February 27, 2002. The indictment giving rise to the arrest charged a total of six defendants in a conspiracy to use identifying information such as names, social security numbers, and dates of birth in order to engage in credit card fraud and identity theft. According to the indictments, the defendants, Lucretia Allen, Margie Lewis Wise, Johnnie Allen Lewis, Ralph Johnson, Ronnie Lewis, and Theresa Adams, obtained identifying information about employees of DeRoyal Industries, a business located in Powell, Tennessee, from an unidentified source. The indictment further alleges that the identifying information was used to obtain official identification from the State of Arkansas, credit cards, and bank accounts which in turn allowed them to fraudulently acquire money, property, and motor vehicles from businesses throughout Tennessee and as far north as Connecticut.

United States Magistrate Judge J. Daniel Breen will conduct a detention hearing on Thursday, April 2, 2002 in order to determine if the defendants will be detained pending their trial.

The United States Secret Service is investigating the case. Tracy Berry is the Assistant United States Attorney.

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